

Roulette (Miller) Farm
WA-II-0351
Richardson Avenue
Sharpsburg Vicinity
Washington County, MD
Catoctin Center for Regional Studies
Frederick Community College
July 2009

Addendum

Number 7 Page 2

Just to the side and down the hill from the main farmhouse is a combined slave quarters and springhouse. This structure, with combined-function quarters, is typical of northern and western Maryland. The building was likely a one-story, one-bay springhouse first, with the slave quarters added ca. 1830. The building is typical for slave quarters in the region, with two bays, one window, one door, and 1½ stories. It is constructed of limestone, with the rooms plastered and whitewashed to make them suitable for habitation.

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The slave quarters / springhouse structure is significant as a typical example of combined-function quarters in Maryland. The building is in a sense a material representation of Maryland's place as a "middle ground" between slave and free. In the south, and in southern and eastern Maryland, the economy was centered on crops like tobacco and cotton which depended on year-round labor for tending, harvesting and processing. But in northern and western Maryland, wheat was the dominant crop, and it required additional hands primarily only for the several weeks of harvest time. Here slaveholdings were small. Farmers and laborers negotiated a mixed labor economy of slave and seasonal hired labor. Owners hired out slaves, found ways to rid themselves of non-producers like children and women who could not participate in the heavy labor of the harvest, and even took advantage of the labor of their slaves' free black family members to help support slaves and be available for work in the harvest. Mirroring this labor situation, farmers often economized by housing slaves in outbuildings that also served other service functions rather than supporting rows of freestanding slave quarters.

The distribution of slaves and a black population across northern Maryland roughly followed settlement patterns—emigrants of German heritage with no slaveholding tradition and favoring smaller farms who moved down from Pennsylvania across the northern and western portions of the counties and slaveholding emigrants of English backgrounds who were used to larger-scale farming moving from southern Maryland across the southern and eastern areas of the counties. The Roulette/Miller Farm illustrates an exception to that pattern. John Miller's grandfather was a German immigrant to Lancaster County, Pa. His father moved to the Sharpsburg vicinity in 1792. The stone springhouse was originally a one story, one bay structure. A clear line in the stonework shows where two more bays and a half story loft were added to the building, corresponding to Miller's increasing his slave holdings from one in 1820 to three in 1840.

In 1856, William Roulette married Margaret Ann Miller, daughter of John Miller. He purchased his father-in-law's farm, adjoining the Mumma farm and the Piper farm, in 1857. He never owned slaves, but in the 1860 census two free blacks were listed as part of his household: Robert Simon, a 15-year-old farm hand, and Nancy Campbell, a 40-year-old woman employed as a servant.

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Number 8 Page 3

Nancy Campbell was the former slave of Peter Miller, uncle of Margaret Ann Roulette. When Peter died in 1856, he owned "1 Colored Woman," appraised at \$250.00. According to Peter's will, Nancy became the property of his son, Andrew Miller, who freed her in June 1859. Her Certificate of Freedom, issued by the county as proof that she was no longer a slave, described Nancy as "5 feet 1 ½ inches high, of a dark complexion, without perceptible marks upon her person." As single black women were particularly vulnerable in this economy, Campbell appears to have immediately taken employment in the Roulette home, where she remained for the rest of her life.

Where Nancy, domestic servant, and Robert, farm hand, lived as employees on the Roulette farm is unknown. It is possible that both occupied the living quarters adjoining the springhouse formerly occupied by the slaves of John Miller. However, a room located directly above the kitchen in the main house seems a more likely location for Nancy as the family's domestic servant; a boxed stair leads from the upper room directly to the kitchen.

Nancy Camel, as she later called herself, was a member of the Manor Church, a Dunker congregation north of Sharpsburg. At the time of her death in 1892, Camel's total worth was \$867.04 in cash. Having never married, in her will she left most her money to Susan Rebecca Roulette, William's daughter, and to the children of both Peter and Andrew Miller. She was buried in the Manor Church cemetery under a gravestone inscribed, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."

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Addendum

Number 9 Page 1

Edith B. Wallace, "Reclaiming Forgotten History: Preserving Rural African-American Resources in Washington County, Maryland" (master's thesis, Goucher College, 2003), 40-42, 59-61, 91, 135-136.



WA-II-351

Roulette House, Antietam Battlefield, Washington Co. MD

Paula Reed

6/09

MSH

W. view, House, front elevation

1/4



WA-IT-351

Roulette House, Antietam Battlefield, Washington Co. MD

Paula Reed

6/09

MDSHPG

SE view, rear of house

2/4



WA-11-351

Roulette Farm, Antietam Battlefield, Washington Co. MD

Paula Reed

6/09

MDSHPD

Springhouse. Quarter NW view

3/4



WA-11-351

Koulette Farm, Antietam Battlefield, Washington Co. MD

Paula Reed

6/09

MDSHPD

NE view, Springhouse, Quarter

4/4

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

WA-II-351
District 1
Map 76
Parcel 4
MAGI # 2209135235

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Roulette Farm

AND/OR COMMON

*included in Antietam Battlefield
NR listing*

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Antietam Battlefield

CITY, TOWN
Sharpsburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE
Maryland

VICINITY OF

COUNTY
Washington

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Howard E. Miller, Jr.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER
Route # 1

CITY, TOWN
Sharpsburg

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21782

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Washington County Court House

Liber #: 311
Folio #: 631

STREET & NUMBER
West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN
Hagerstown

STATE
Maryland 21740

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**☐ EXCELLENT☒ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☐ UNALTERED☒ ALTERED < 50%**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This farm makes up part of the Antietam Battlefield although it is not owned by the National Park Service. The house on the property is a long, narrow eight story two part log structure covered with German and aluminum siding. The more southerly part of the house is a one story, four bay structure with small six over six windows having their lintels on a lower plane than the door lintel. A deep overhanging porch extends along the front elevation. A large exterior chimney topped with brick is against the south end wall. The remaining five bays are attached to the north end wall of the first section and appear to be an addition. Nine over six sashes are used at several openings while others have six over six sashes. Part of the front wall is recessed. This section of the house has an inside end chimney of brick and several small gable roofed dormers. Doors with six raised panels are present at both sections.

Other buildings in the complex include a secondary stone dwelling over a spring and several outbuildings. A large frame bank barn is also present.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This complex is most notably associated with the Civil War Battle of Antietam which occurred on September 17, 1862. The farm was in an area of major fighting. However, the buildings themselves have importance as examples of the area's early architecture. At least part of this house may have been built during the late 18th century. The exterior stone chimney and the uneven door and window lintels of the south section are often associated with pre 1800 log buildings in this region.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 179 1/2 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paula Stoner, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Preservation Associates

STREET & NUMBER

109 West Main Street, Box 202

CITY OR TOWN

Sharpsburg

DATE

June 1978

TELEPHONE

301-432-5466

STATE

Maryland 21782

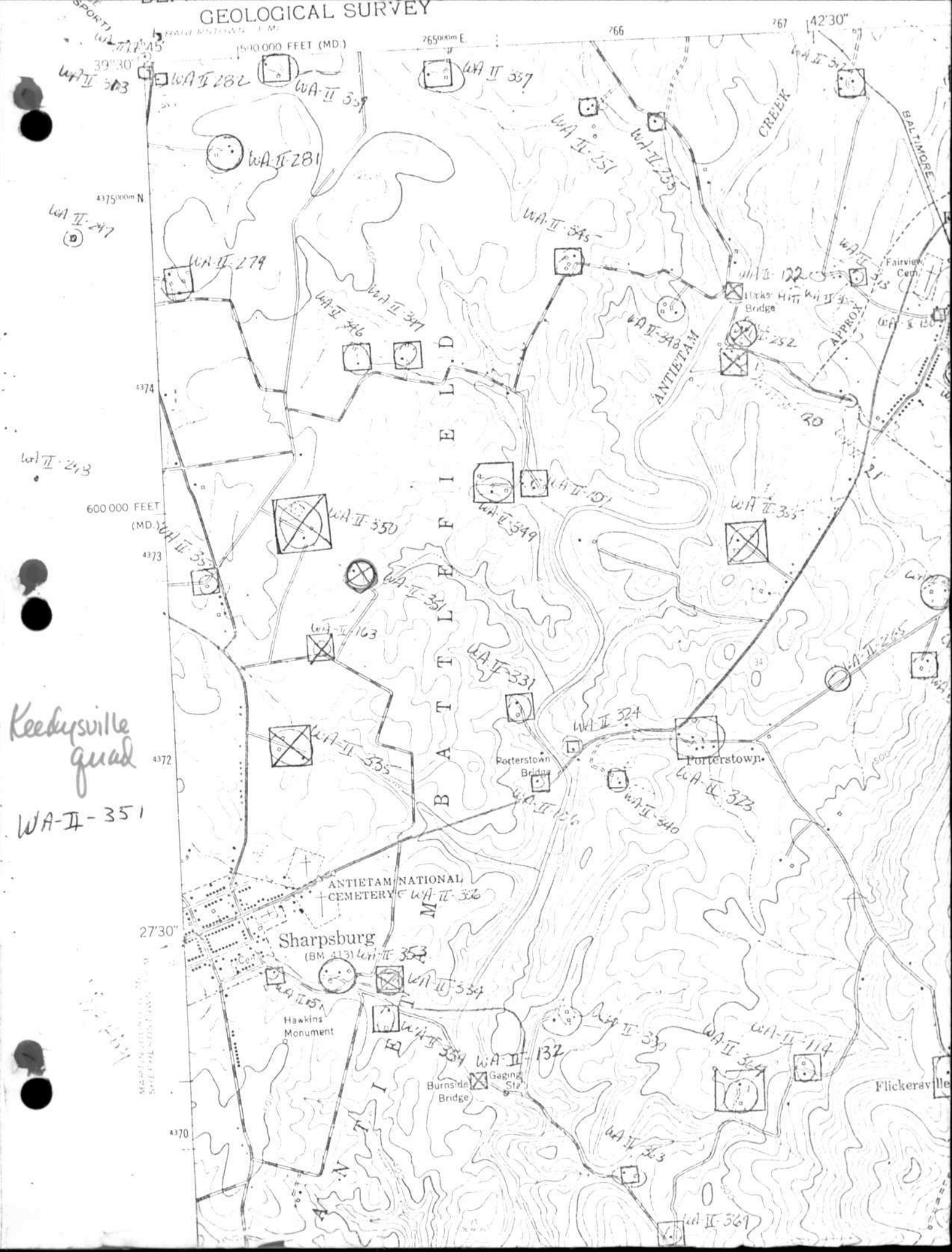
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Keedysville quad
WA-II-351





WA-II-351

E.

April 1976

Roulette Farm

Antietam Battlefield
Sharpsburg Vicinity

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



Roulette Farm

Antietam Battlefield
Sharpsburg Vicinity

WA-II-351

W.

April 1976

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



Roulette Farm

Antietam Battlefield
Sharpsburg Vicinity

WA-II-351

Secondary dwelling S.E.

April, 1916

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



Roulette Farm

Antietam Battlefield
Sharpsburg Vicinity

WA-II-351

Secondary dwelling

S.W.

April 1976

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



Roulette Farm

Antietam Battlefield
Sharpsburg Vicinity

WA-II-351
N.
April 1976

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY